

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

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Introduced by Assembly Member Nava ~~Members Nava and Evans~~

January 23, 2009

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to offshore oil drilling.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, as amended, Nava. Offshore oil drilling.

This measure would request that the Congress of the United States reinstate the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for the 2009 fiscal year and beyond. This measure would also memorialize the Legislature's opposition to the proposed expansion of oil and gas drilling off the Pacific Coast and any federal energy policies and legislation that would weaken California's role in energy siting decisions by those policies.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of the Interior, acting  
2 in President Bush's final days in office, on January 16, 2009,  
3 proposed opening up ~~130~~ six million acres off of California's coast  
4 to drilling for oil and natural gas; and  
5 *WHEREAS, While the Obama Administration has put a hold on*  
6 *the Department of the Interior's January 16th plan in order to*  
7 *consider various possible impacts of offshore oil development as*  
8 *well as consider input from the public, the expansion of oil*  
9 *development in areas previously protected by the outer continental*  
10 *shelf moratorium remain under consideration; and*

1 WHEREAS, Proposed drilling areas include areas off Humboldt  
2 and Mendocino Counties and from San Luis Obispo south to San  
3 Diego; and

4 WHEREAS, Following the infamous January 29, 1969, oil spill  
5 that resulted in the spillage of 3,200,000 gallons of crude oil and  
6 that fouled Santa Barbara County's ocean beaches, Californians  
7 became even more wary about offshore oil drilling, continuing  
8 with the passage of additional oil and gas leasing prohibitions in  
9 1969, 1970, and 1971; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1994, the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of  
11 1994 (Chapter 3.4 (commencing with Section 6240) of Part 1 of  
12 Division 6 of the Public Resources Code) became law, creating a  
13 comprehensive statewide coastal sanctuary that prohibits, in  
14 perpetuity, future oil and gas leasing in state waters, from Mexico  
15 to the Oregon border, and that adds leases to the sanctuary as they  
16 are quitclaimed to the state; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition, the protection of California's  
18 spectacular 1,100 mile coastline is of the utmost importance to a  
19 number of our state's coastal and ocean-dependent industries,  
20 including tourism and commercial fishing, which contributed over  
21 \$50 billion to California's economy in 2003; and

22 WHEREAS, California's ocean waters are also home to four  
23 important sanctuaries, that are, by definition, areas of special  
24 conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural,  
25 archaeological, scientific, educational, and aesthetic qualities and  
26 are particularly sensitive to the impacts of oil development; and

27 WHEREAS, Additional offshore oil leasing and production  
28 would degrade the quality of our air and water and adversely impact  
29 our marine resources, including seismic surveys that could severely  
30 impact marine mammals, including threatened and endangered  
31 species such as the blue and humpback whale; and

32 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development poses a serious risk of  
33 oil spills, especially with the introduction of deepwater drilling  
34 technologies and floating oil storage and processing vessels,  
35 thereby threatening marine ecosystems, and could have devastating  
36 effects on the southern sea otter, listed as a threatened species since  
37 1997, as well as onshore wildlife, birds, and their habitats in the  
38 ocean, in estuaries, and on beaches; and

39 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development also leads to the  
40 industrialization of the shoreline, creating land use conflicts,

1 visually degrading coastal areas, and posing potentially  
2 life-threatening public safety risks; and

3 WHEREAS, The further development of nonrenewable resources  
4 that degrade our air, water, and land is contrary to our state's goals  
5 of reducing emissions that cause global warming, improving air  
6 quality, and increasing the use of renewable energy; now, therefore,  
7 be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
9 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
10 respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States reinstate  
11 the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for the 2009  
12 fiscal year and beyond; and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
14 respectfully opposes the proposed expansion of oil and gas drilling  
15 off the Pacific Coast and any federal energy policies and legislation  
16 that would weaken California's legitimate role in energy siting  
17 decisions due to the threat posed by those policies and legislation  
18 to the integrity of California's coastal and ocean dependent tourism  
19 and fishing economies and the consolidation of project review  
20 authority with the federal government; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
22 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
23 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each  
24 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the  
25 United States, *to the Secretary of the Interior,* and to the author  
26 for appropriate distribution.